(a) whether the differences between Government and the Andhra Pradesh Government over the revival of Vizag Steel Plant have been resolved; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of revival of the above steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) The process of resolving the differences on the revival-cum-disinvestment plan of RINL, between Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and the concerned Departments/Ministries of the Central Government is continuing. However, the Company has been consistently improving its physical and financial performance during the last five years as may be seen from the details given below :

Physical Performance ('000 tonnes)

Item	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	2002-03**
Hot Metal	2510	2943	3165	3485	3942
Liquid Steel	2225	2656	2909	3083	3357
Saleable Steel	1933	2382	2507	2757	3056

Financial Performance (Rs. in crores)

Item	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	2002-03**
Turnover	2762	2973	3436	4081	5059
Gross Margin	15	249	504	690	1045
Cash Profit	-346	-130	153	400	910
Net Profit	-457	-562	-291	-75	450

** Figures are provisional and unaudited.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited has thus achieved a turn around by making a net profit of approximately Rs. 450 crores, during 2002-03, for the first time, since its inception.

The Company is making all out effort to stabilize and further improve its overall performance.

Steel Policy

3858. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of preparing a comprehensive steel policy for the Indian Steel Industry in the light of the on-going revised restructuring and globalisation;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) whether Government will bring it before Parliament during its current Session for consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steel policy of the Government would endeavour to facilitate development of a world class and globally competitive steel industry in the country to cater to the rising domestic demand and to increase the share of the Indian Steel Industry in the world market. The policy would also address all issues of concern to the industry which *inter alia* include technology upgradation, R and D, quality enhancement etc. and endeavour to chalk out a desirable course of Government initiatives and actions as also an appropriate industry strategy consistent with each other to take the industry from strength to strength.

(c) to (e) The first draft of the National Steel Policy was discussed with all major steel producers, their associations, consultancy firms in the field of metallurgy and representatives of FICCI, Ministries of Commerce and Finance. The participants suggested certain changes to be incorporated in the policy document and accordingly it was decided that the draft would be modified in light of the suggestions so given and the revised policy document would again be circulated to all concerned before giving it a final shape. While further consultations with industry were in progress, it was observed that the industry in general showed signs of revival. In addition, concerted activity was observed on the trade front. It was felt that the imperatives of the changing scenario should be incorporated in the Steel Policy. Accordingly, a round of fresh informal consultations is in progress and a revised draft is expected to be circulated again for obtaining the views of the industry.

Proposals under research and technology Mission

3859. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals evaluated by the research and technology mission during the last three years, year-wise;